



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Postsecondary Education

Call for written third-party comments

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Education, Accreditation Group,
Office of Postsecondary Education.

ACTION: Call for written third-party comments.

SUMMARY: This notice provides information to members of the public on submitting written comments for accrediting agencies currently undergoing review for purposes of recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Herman Bounds, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 270-01, Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone: (202) 453-7615, or email: *herman.bounds@ed.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This solicitation of third-party comments concerning the performance of accrediting agencies under review by the Secretary of Education is required by § 496(n)(1)(A) of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended. These accrediting agencies will be on the agenda for the Winter 2019 National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and

Integrity meeting. The meeting date has not been determined, but will be announced in a separate Federal Register notice.

Agencies Under Review and Evaluation: Below is a list of agencies currently undergoing review and evaluation by the Accreditation Group, including their current and requested scopes of recognition:

Applications for Renewal of Recognition

1. Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training.
Scope of Recognition: The accreditation throughout the United States of institutions of higher education that offer continuing education and vocational programs that confer certificates or occupational associate degrees, including those programs offered via distance education.
2. American Veterinary Medical Association, Council on Education. Scope of Recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Provisional Accreditation") in the United States of programs leading to professional degrees (D.V.M. or D.M.D.) in veterinary medicine.
3. Council on Education for Public Health. Scope of Recognition: The accreditation within the United States of schools of public health and public health programs outside schools of public health, at the baccalaureate and graduate

degree levels, including those offered via distance education.

4. Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. Scope of Recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of community and other colleges with a primarily pre-baccalaureate mission located in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which offer certificates, associate degrees, and the first baccalaureate degree by means of a substantive change review offered by institutions that are already accredited by the agency, and such programs offered via distance education and correspondence education at these colleges. This recognition also extends to the Committee on Substantive Change of the Commission, for decisions on substantive changes, and the Appeals Panel.

Compliance Report

1. The Council on Chiropractic Education compliance report includes the following: finding identified in the May 25, 2017 letter from the senior Department official following

the February 22, 2017 NACIQI meeting available at:
<https://opeweb.ed.gov/aslweb/finalstaffreports.cfm>, with
respect to recognition requirements found at 34 C.F.R.
§602.20(a). Scope of Recognition: The accreditation of
programs leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree and
single-purpose institutions offering the Doctor of
Chiropractic program.

2. Commission on English Language Program Accreditation

Compliance report includes the following: finding
identified in the May 25, 2017 letter from the senior
Department official following the February 22, 2017 NACIQI
meeting available at:

<https://opeweb.ed.gov/aslweb/finalstaffreports.cfm>, with
respect to recognition requirements found at 34 C.F.R.
§602.20(b). Scope of Recognition: The accreditation of
postsecondary, non-degree-granting English language
programs and institutions in the United States.

Application for an Expansion of Scope

1. Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting
Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. Scope of
Recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation
("Candidate for Accreditation") of community and other
colleges with a primarily pre-baccalaureate mission

located in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which offer certificates, associate degrees, and the first baccalaureate degree by means of a substantive change review offered by institutions that are already accredited by the agency, and such programs offered via distance education and correspondence education at these colleges. This recognition also extends to the Committee on Substantive Change of the Commission, for decisions on substantive changes, and the Appeals Panel.

Requested Scope of Recognition:

The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of community and other colleges in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which have as a primary mission the granting of associate degrees, but which may also award certificates and other credentials, including bachelor's degrees, where the provision of such credentials is within the institution's

mission and, if applicable, is authorized by their governmental authorities, and the accreditation of such programs offered via distance education and correspondence education at these colleges. This recognition also extends to the Committee on Substantive Change of the Commission, for decisions on substantive changes.

Submission of Written Comments Regarding a Specific Accrediting Agency or State Approval Agency Under Review:

Written comments about the recognition of a specific accrediting or State agency must be received by September 30, 2018, in the ThirdPartyComments@ed.gov mailbox and include the subject line "Written Comments: (agency name)." The email must include the name(s), title, organization/affiliation, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person(s) making the comment. Comments should be submitted as a Microsoft Word document or in a medium compatible with Microsoft Word (not a PDF file) that is attached to an electronic mail message (email) or provided in the body of an email message. Comments about an agency that has submitted a compliance report scheduled for review by the Department must relate to the criteria for recognition cited in the senior Department official's letter that requested the report, or in the Secretary's appeal decision, if any. Comments about an agency that has submitted a

petition for renewal of recognition must relate to the agency's compliance with the Criteria for the Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, or the Criteria and Procedures for Recognition of State Agencies for Approval of Nurse Education as appropriate, which are available at

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>.

Only written material submitted by the deadline to the email address listed in this notice, and in accordance with these instructions, become part of the official record concerning agencies scheduled for review and are considered by the Department and NACIQI in their deliberations.

A later Federal Register notice will describe how to register to provide oral comments at the meeting regarding the recognition of a specific accrediting agency or State approval agency.

Electronic Access to this Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. Free Internet access to the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations is available via the Federal Digital System at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat

Reader, which is available free at the site. You may also access documents of the Department published in the Federal Register by using the article search feature at: *www.federalregister.gov*. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

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